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IAS - 40/68

16 May 1968

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Special Assessment of [REDACTED] Spectral Material

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Member, COMIREX

SUBJECT: CIA Special Assessment of BI-Spectral Material

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REFERENCES: (a) Your memo of 9 May 1968, [REDACTED]
(b) IAS Technical Advisor memo of 15 May 1968,
[REDACTED] (attached)

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1. The attached memo would seem to confirm the impression I had when we spoke on the phone the other evening, that there were no serious technical or administrative problems which would prevent IAS from supporting the CIA special assessment you proposed. In conversation, [REDACTED] has offered the necessary NPIC support.

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2. The 15 June deadline will not be feasible under the normal schedule of arrival of the original negatives from the mission, which the attached memo indicates are necessary. They are not expected here in the building until about four weeks after their initial arrival at [REDACTED] in the case of the second bucket, that means about mid-June.

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3. There might be some further delays in getting workable material if, as NPIC's present experience suggests, it proves difficult to get interpretable images out of the ARES device. In fact, I was told by [REDACTED] yesterday that there is some doubt at present that the material available for interpretation in color will even be as good as indicated in paragraph 3 of the attached.

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4. In any case, IAS is beginning a preliminary selection of some candidate [REDACTED] from the first bucket, and plans to do the same with the second bucket when it arrives. We await an OSR memo on proposed procedure, but will be prepared to support an in-house assessment of the intelligence value of the bi-spectral coverage of selected targets after the arrival of the original negatives.

5. Yesterday I was shown a requirement, delivered to NPIC by IRS, which called for NPIC to do what I thought you were asking IAS to do. Is there some confusion here?

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